THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI NT. SHANMUGAM): (a) and (b)The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Condition of VHGS

5085. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Village Health Guides Working in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that these Village Health guides, who are getting Rs. 50/- per month, have not received their allowance since last fifty two months in Orissa; and

(c) whether Government would consider to enhance their allowance and also take steps to clear all arrears due?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) There are 323208 Village Health Guides working in the country.

(b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare releases funds every year to the State Government. The responsibility for disbursing funds is with the State Government. During last three years funds released to Government of Orissa are as follows:—

Year	*Amount released (Rs. in lakh)*
1997-98	69.05
1998-99	69.23
1999-2000	69.23

(c) An Expert Committee has reviewed the Scheme and submitted its report which is under examination in consultation with other Ministries.

CGHS Dispensaries in Tamil Nadu

5086. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of CGHS dispensaries in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the details of facilities provided in those CGHS dispensaires;

(c) the total number of CGHS beneficiaries in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to start more CGHS dispensaries in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T SHANMUGAM): (a) The number of CGHS dispensaries is 14 in Tamil Nadu.

(b) The following facilities are provided in the CGHS dispensaries:—

(i) OPD treatment in Allopathic, Ayurvedic and Homoeopathi;- systems and also in Sidha in Chennai.

(ii) Clinical Laboratory investigations,

(iii) Specialist consultation in different specialities,

(iv) X-ray

(v) E.C.G.

Besides the above facilities, the facilities for super speciality investigations like ECG. Scanning Serological, alongwith super specialities treatment is provided through the recognised private hospitals.

(c) The total number of CGHS beneficiaries is 1,68,576 in Tamil Nadu.

(d) Although, there is a proposal to start more CGHS dispensaries in Tamil Nadu yet due to financial constraints and non-implementation of SIU Report, it is not feasible to open any new CGHS dispensary in the said State for the present.

Advantage of Iodised

5087. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether experts from UNICEF and IMA extolled the advantages of iodised salt to combat iodine deficiency disorders in countries like India, where soil is deficient of iodine;

(b) whether survey conducted by IMA in 1988 revealed that out of 270 districts of the country, 235 districts were endemic to IDDs; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the steps taken in the matter to allay the fears against consumption of iodised salt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The primary etiological